

# SPECIAL NEEDS

**S**anta Rosa County should be your last resort if you have nowhere else to go. Emergency Management, Santa Rosa County Health Department and other community agencies have established Sims Middle School, 5500 Education Drive in Pace, as a SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER for use during a disaster.

A SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER is different from a regular shelter. The Special Needs Shelter is not a mini-hospital or nursing home. It is a refuge for people who have specific needs that can only be met in this type setting. Only clients with special needs and caregivers will be admitted. If you require more or less service than is provided, you will be referred to an alternate site.

Sims Middle School has an emergency power generator that can provide power to run only essential medical equipment such as oxygen delivery systems and priority will be given to persons requiring this type of equipment.

For your comfort, it would be preferable to arrange to stay with friends or family outside the area of danger. The SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

should be your last resort if you have nowhere else to go.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

SIMS SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER is a school. The school provides only an area to stay during an emergency.

Emergency Management has a very limited number of cots and blankets available for use in this center. There may not be a cot for everyone.

You are responsible for bringing any special items you require.

## FOOD & WATER

It is recommended you bring a three day supply of the following:

- Non-perishable foods
- One gallon of water/day
- Any unique dietary requirements

## STAFF

The center has a very limited staff provided by Santa Rosa County Health Department and volunteers. Specialized nursing care is not available.

You Must Be Accompanied By A CareGiver!



Downed power lines, trees and flooding may make it difficult, if not impossible, to reach shelters during a hurricane. Therefore, plan adequate time to reach your shelter before winds and rain become severe.

## MEDICAL CARE

The SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER is not a substitute for your regular health care. No physician will be in the shelter. Nurses are there to provide assistance only, not for providing all of your care. If you are under the care of a doctor or home health agency, please discuss your evacuation plans with them.

If you have home health care or hospice, please bring your folder and your nurse's name and telephone number. Please call them before you leave home to let them know where you will be.

You are responsible for bringing your medication and any medical supplies and equipment that you use. This includes Depends, Chux, Urinals, etc.

## OTHER SUGGESTIONS

PLEASE BRING A FLASHLIGHT in case we lose power. Please bring personal grooming items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Bring along a book, magazine, cards or a game to pass the time.



## **SHELTER RULES**

- You **MUST SIGN IN** when you arrive and **SIGN OUT** when you leave...
- No alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Food and drinks are consumed in the cafeteria only.
- Absolutely **NO SMOKING** in the Center!
- No guns or weapons.
- **NO PETS.**
- No disorderly or disruptive behavior.
- A law enforcement officer will be on duty at all times.
- We are guests of Sims Middle School, please treat their building, equipment and staff respectfully.
- Being in an Shelter is stressful for everyone, please treat your fellow evacuees with courtesy and kindness.



*Sims Middle School, 5500 Education Drive, Pace, has been established as a SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER.*